

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION AGR-08

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JS

SUBJ: CITRUS: FUNGICIDES

REF: TOKYO 6419

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

1. SUMMARY: AMOUNT FRUIT DENIED ENTRY BY MHW DOWN SHARPLY SINCE REFTEL. RATE OF DECAY INCREASING. MHW DESIRES USDA COMMENTS RE POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-SIDE CERTIFYING EACH SHIPMENT IN FUTURE AS BEING CLEAR OF OPP OR TBZ. THEY ALSO WISH RECEIVE ANY DATA SHOWING THAT DISPOSAL (BY DUMPING IN SEA OR BURNING) OF FRUIT TREATED WITH TBZ AND/OR OPP IS SAFE, I.E., PRESENTS NO HAZARDS TO HUMAN HEALTH. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION AS OF MAY 28 ACCORDING THE MHW AS FOLLOWS:

GRAPEFRUIT: 2,750,177 CARTONS INSPECTED 43,665 CARTONS REJECTED FOR 1.6 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

LEMONS: 456,483 CARTONS INSPECTED 195,310 CARTONS REJECTED FOR 43 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

ORANGES: 83,240 CARTONS INSPECTED 16,675 CARTONS REJECTED FOR 20 PERCENT REJECT RATE.

TOTAL U.S. CITRUS DENIED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE APRIL 5-MAY 28: 255,650 CARTONS.

IN ADDITION, 3,508 CARTONS LEMONS, 2,486 CARTONS ORANGES AND 8,525 CARTONS GRAPEFRUIT, WHICH HAD CLEARED CUSTOMS BUT HAPPENED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE IN WAREHOUSES AT TIME OF FIRST NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, WERE

CONDEMNED AND HAVE EITHER BEEN RESHIPED OR DESTROYED.

3. IN JUNE 2 MTG WITH AGATT REPS, TERAMATSU (MIURA'S ASST., MHW FOOD SANITATION DIV.) CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT DIR. GEN. ISHIMARU SAID BEFORE A DIET COMMITTEE ON MAY 29 THAT HE WOULD ASK GOVT'S EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO ATTACH CERTIFICATES TO EACH SHIPMENT STATING THAT NO OPP AND/OR TBZ WAS USED.

4. TERAMATSU ASKED POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-SIDE BEING ABLE TO MEET SUCH REQUEST AND STATED MHW DESIRES TO PERSUE THIS POSSIBILITY IN HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO ALLEVIATE PORT CONGESTION HERE CAUSED BY TESTING REQUIREMENTS, I.E., AT LEAST PART OF TESTING REQUIREMENTS COULD CONCEIVABLY BE WAIVED IF EXPORTING COUNTRY COULD ISSUE CERTIFICATE.

5. AGATT REP. STATED IT VERY UNLIKELY U.S.-SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE SUCH CERTIFICATE. USDA PROBABLY COULD NOT ISSUE SUCH CERTIFICATE WITHOUT TESTING FRUIT AND MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY STAFFED, ETC. TO DO SUCH INSPECTION. BESIDES, AGATT REP. POINTED OUT, EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE ISSUE SUCH CERTIFICATE, THIS WOULD NOT BE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. GOJ APPROVAL OF OPP AND TBZ IS ONLY PERMANENT SOLUTION. TERAMATSU RECOGNIZED LATTER BUT SAID CERTIFICATE IDEA MAY HELP IN INTERIM PERIOD.

6. TO QUESTIONS QTE WOULD STATE CERTIFICATE BE ADEQUATE? WHAT KIND OF WORDING WOULD MHW REQUIRE? UNQTE, TERAMATSU COULD GIVE NO CONCRETE REPLY.

7. TERAMATSU ALSO ASKED IF U.S.-SIDE COULD SUPPLY ANY SCIENTIFIC DATA SHOWING SAFETY OF DISPOSAL OF TREATED FRUIT AS THEY (MHW) HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING PERMISSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES IN GOJ TO HAVE CONDEMNED FRUIT BURNED OR DUMPED IN HARBOR, ETC.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE GIVE AGATT YOUR CANDID VIEWS RE POSSIBILITY OF USG CERTIFYING EACH SHIPMENT FREE OF OPP AND/OR TBZ. (AGATT FEELS THIS MAY BE UNADVISABLE EVEN IF POSSIBLE AS IT MAY TAKE PRESSURE OFF GOJ TO SOLVE PROBLEM ASAP BY APPROVING USE OF OPP AND TBZ.) ALSO, IF DATA MENTIONED ABOVE AVAILABLE PLEASE SEND.

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9. LEMON PRICES HAVE DROPPED SHARPLY SINCE REFTEL., FROM WHOLESALE PRICE OF 20 TO 25,000 YEN PER CARTON MAY 12-13 DOWN TO 6 TO 7,000 YEN PER CARTON MAY 24. PREVIOUS NORMAL WAS 4 TO 5,000 YEN PER CARTON.

10. ON MAY 29 DR. SMOOT INSPECTED QUALITY OF ONE SHIPMENT SUNKIST LEMONS ARRIVING ABOARD M.S. GOLA GIRL. FOUND 1-2 PERCENT DECAY IN MOST LOTS BUT 18 PERCENT DECAY ON SOME LOTS OF WHAT APPEARED

TO BE MORE MATURE FRUIT. DECAY WAS MAINLY SOUR ROT WHICH CAN
BE CONTROLLED BY OPP BUT NOT BY DIPHENYL.
HODGSON

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